

There Can Be Meaning In Life Without God! (Can There Be?)

Category: Purpose and Meaning in Life

Example A)

“Distrust compassion; prefer dignity for yourself and others. Do not be afraid to be thought selfish or arrogant. Picture all experts as if they were mammals... Do not live for others any more than you would expect others to live for you.”

Christopher Hitchens

Example B)

“... I am asked; do I find purpose and meaning in life? How does a mere and gross materialist, with no expectation of a life to come, decide what if anything, is worth caring about? ... It could be that all existence is a pointless joke, but it is in fact not possible to live one's everyday life as if this were so.”

Christopher Hitchens

Example C)

“... Our life is as meaningful and full and as wonderful as we choose to make it.”

Richard Dawkins

Example D)

“Thus, though I dislike to differ with such a great man, Voltaire was simply ludicrous when he said that if God did not exist it would be necessary to invent him. The human invention of God is the problem to begin with.”

Christopher Hitchens

Example E)

"It surprises me how disinterested we are today about things like physics, space, the universe and philosophy of our existence, our purpose, our final destination. It's a crazy world out there, be curious."

Stephen Hawking

Example F) (contradicts E)

"The human race is just chemical scum on a moderate sized planet, orbiting around a very average star in the outer suburb of one among a hundred billion galaxies. We are so insignificant that I can't believe the whole universe exists for our benefit."

Stephen Hawking

Example G)

"The search for nirvana, like the search for utopia... or the classless society, is ultimately a futile and dangerous one... There is no escape from anxiety and struggle."

Christopher Hitchens

Example H) (Contradicts G and A and others)

"What would our world be like if we ceased to worry about 'right' and 'wrong', or 'good' and 'evil', and simply acted so as to maximize well-being, our own and that of others? Would we lose anything important?"

Sam Harris

Example I)

"The secret to happiness is to face the fact that life is horrible."

Bertrand Russell

Example J)

“You are not controlling the storm, and you are not lost in it. You are the storm.”

Sam (Mr. Miyagi) Harris

Example K)

“I regard the brain as a computer which will stop working when its components fail. There is no heaven or afterlife for broken down computers: that is a fairy story for people afraid of the dark.”

Stephen Hawking

Example L)

“I don’t have a body, I am a body.”

Christopher Hitchens

Example M)

“I don’t believe in free will.”

Sam Harris

Example N)

“In point of fact, they simply do what they cannot help doing.”

Friedrich Nietzsche

Example O) (compare to M)

“Your mind is all you have. It’s all you’ve ever had. It’s all you have to offer other people.”

Sam Harris

Example P)

“Does humanity exist to serve some ultimate transcendent purpose? Conventional scientific wisdom gives the answer as a definitive no. This is the answer provided in the recent New York Times piece, ‘The Universe Doesn’t Care About Your Purpose.’”

Michael Price

Example Q)

“Life’s but a walking shadow, a poor player, that struts and frets his hour upon the stage, and then is heard no more; it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.”

William Shakespeare/MacBeth speaking

Example R)

“The modern mind is in complete disarray. Knowledge has stretched itself to the point where neither the world nor our intelligence can find any foot-hold. It is a fact that we are suffering from nihilism.”

Albert Camus

nihilism = meaninglessness

Example S)

“Next to enjoying ourselves, the next greatest pleasure consists in preventing others from enjoying themselves, or, more generally in the acquisition of power.”

Bertrand Russell

Example T)

“I don’t know that there is meaning to life, but life can be meaningful.”

Sam Harris

Example U)

“The universe may have a purpose, but nothing we know suggests that.”

Bertrand Russell

Example V) (compared to C)

“Much as we might like to believe otherwise, universal love and the welfare of the species as a whole are concepts which simply do not make evolutionary sense.”

Richard Dawkins

Example W)

“There are two tragedies in life. One is not to get your heart’s desire. The other is to get it.”

George Bernard Shaw

Example X)

“I would rather be the offspring of two apes than be a man and be afraid to face the truth.”

Thomas Huxley

Example Y)

“Life is nothing but a competition to be the criminal rather than the victim.”

Bertrand Russell

Example Z) (in Why I'm not an Christian)

"Brief and powerless is man's life; on him and all his race the slow sure doom falls pitiless and dark. Blind to good and evil, reckless of destruction, omnipotent matter rolls on its relentless way; for man, condemned today to lose his dearest, tomorrow himself to pass through the gate of darkness, it remains only to cherish ere yet the blow fall, the lofty thoughts that enable his little day; disdaining the coward terror of the slave of fate, to worship at the shrine his own hands have built; undismayed by the empire of chance... despite the trampling march of the unconscious power."

Bertrand Russell

Food for Thought

Mark Twain once proclaimed, "When we remember we are all mad (crazy) the mysteries disappear and life stands explained." The Traveling Medicine Show troupe is a classic example of the madness in men's hearts, fallen men's hearts, I remind you.

"Truly the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live..."

Ecclesiastes 9:3

As I peruse the quotes these self-styled "Brights" have given us, I am struck by the schizophrenic dismal-fest they pretend to be cheery about. Bleak doesn't begin to describe the state of a man who imbibes these warlocks' brew.

Look once more at the quotes. Is there any unity of doctrine that you can find? Remember, these pillars of the Atheist church constantly pontificate about the clarity and rationality one finds in Atheism. I find just the opposite.

Sam Harris is reverting to his best Mr. Miyagi impression when he says,

"What would our world be like if we ceased to worry about 'right' and 'wrong', or 'good' and 'evil', and simply acted so as to maximize well-being, our own and that of others? Would we lose anything important?"

I'm baffled. Has Sam never met his neighbor? Goodness, when a man refuses the Biblical view of mankind, why must he race to find all men nearly angelic? Sam has forsaken all rationality this time. Let's see which of his comrades will join him in this summer of '67 redo.

Uh-Oh, Sam's on an island with this humbug he has trotted out. How about a bit more of Sam Harris channeling his inner Mr. Miyagi?

"You are not controlling the storm, and you are not lost in it. You are the storm."

I swear only 2 types of females will buy this tripe:

- 16 year old girls with extensive Barbie collections
- Older women who wear Cubs jammies 24 hours a day and are more than a bit familiar with Timothy Leary's biography

Poor Sam Harris, he does talk out of both sides of his mouth:

"I don't know that there is meaning to life, but life can be meaningful."

Do you now understand why I used the term schizophrenic? Sadly, you will find Sam's self-contradictory statements echoed by many small town Atheist pastors.

But, Bertrand Russell, Richard Dawkins, and Christopher Hitchens hold to a similar depressing view of life due to their belief that they are pond scum that has accidentally transformed itself into a mammal. Think I'm exaggerating?

Look at example Z, Bertrand Russell takes a realistic, Atheistic view. He describes a man's life as brief and powerless, a life on which a slow sure doom falls pitiless and dark. He notes that men are blind to good and evil and concedes that he and all men face the reality that anyone dear to them will perish; then the one who loved the dear one will himself die. He chatters about slaves of fate and empire of chance. In the end, as Russell views it, there is a trampling march of unconscious power. Yikes, bleak is too bright to describe Russell's view of a meaningless life.

Russell says life is a competition to be the criminal rather than the victim. How does Russell's criminal exhaust himself? The criminal seeks pleasure and enjoyment and after that search, only one thing delights him, "preventing others from enjoying themselves..."

This sad sap, Russell, was once my hero. When I was reading Russell as a young man, his philosophy led me to suicideville. Providentially, God denied me my suicide.

I'm going to spare you a rehash of the despair Dawkins and Hawking are selling, and I'm going directly to Christopher Hitchens and his straightforward but disheartening appraisal of life.

“... I am asked, do I find purpose and meaning in life? How does a mere and gross materialist, with no expectation of a life to come, decide what, if anything, is worth caring about?... It could be that all existence is a pointless joke, but it is in fact not possible to live one's everyday life as if this were so.”

Christopher stumbled here, and was simply honest. For a rational Atheist, there is neither meaning nor purpose in life. Christopher finishes his thought with the statement that it is not possible to live as if there is no meaning, no purpose to life.

Now that is a pitiful and heavy reality to carry through life. As Albert Camus correctly apprises, “The modern mind is in complete disarray...” It is a fact that we are suffering from nihilism (meaninglessness).

No God? No meaning. No God? No purpose.

What are Atheism's disciples left with?

A Doctrine of Despair

- Meaninglessness
- Hopelessness
- Despair
- Slave of Fate